

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 OIC-04 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25

RSC-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 SAB-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SP-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-20 STR-08

FEAE-00 SWF-02 INT-08 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-15 SCI-06 DRC-01 /279 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8176

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECWA, OCON, XF

SUBJECT: ECWA OPENING SESSION

REF: STATE 114830

SUMMARY: INITIAL SESSION OF ECWA INAUGURAL CONFERENCE ROUTINE. WELCOMING SPEECHES NON-CONTROVERSIAL, AS IS MOST OF REMAINDER OF PROGRAM, JUDGING FROM INITIAL DOCUMENTATION. APPLICATION OF NON-ARAB PAKISTAN FOR MEMBERSHIP IS ONLY SURPRISE. COMMERICAL OPPORTUNITY MAY EXIST IN ECWA PROJECT TO DEVELOP DOCUMENTATION CENTER STARTING IN 1975.

1. ECWA OPENED INAUGURAL CONFERENCE WITH BRIEF MORNING SESSION CONSISTING OF WELCOMING SPEECHES BY WALDHEIM, LEBANON PREMIER SOLH AND ECWA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AL-ATTAR. DR. WALDHEIM SAID RECENT UNGA SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION DEMONSTRATED DRAMATICALLY AND EFFECTIVELY WORLD'S INTERDEPENDENCE IN FACE OF POVERTY, RESOURCE SCARCITY AND

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OTHER OBSTACLES DEVELOPMENT. IN BRIEF REFERENCE TO

ISRAELI-SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT AND UN ROLE, HE SAID "WE ALL KNOW THAT THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM STILL REMAIN TO BE SOLVED" AND EXPRESSED HOPE FOR A JUST AND LASTING SETTLEMENT VIA GENEVA CONFERENCE. PREMIER SOLH SAID ISRAELI AGGRESSOR HAD DIVERTED SOME OF REGION'S RESOURCES TO SELF-DEFENSE BUT EXPRESSED HOPE FOR PEACE AND ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT. AL-ATTAR SAID ECWA ROLE IN REGION STILL TO BE DEVELOPED AND STRESSED HOPE THAT MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WOULD SHOW CONFIDENCE IN ECWA.

2. FIRST DAY'S SESSION TO END WITH AGENDA ITEM 4, PARTICIPATION BY NON-MEMBERS IN CONSULTATIVE CAPACITY. ECWA LISTS OBSERVER APPLICATIONS FROM AUSTRIA, EGYPT, FRANCE, WEST GERMANY, HUNGARY, JAPAN, PAKISTAN, UK, US AND USSR. CANADA WITHDREW APPLICATION DUE UNCERTAINTY OVER LEGAL IMPLICATIONS CONSULTATIVE CAPACITY. OBSERVER DELEGATIONS SEEM CONSIST OF EMBOFFS FROM BEIRUT EMBASSIES, NO AMBASSADORS.

3. REGARDING HEADQUARTERS CITY (ITEM 7), PRELIMINARY DOCUMENTATION CONTAINS ONLY LEBANON'S OFFER OF 50,000 SQUARE METERS OF LAND FOR ECWA BUILDING AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER AND INTEREST-FREE LOAN OF HALF OF COST OF A NEW ECWA BUILDING. ECWA BUILDING WOULD REQUIRE 27,000 METERS AND COST ABOUT \$12 MILLION. NO OTHER BIDS LISTED BUT IRAQ AND SYRIA MAY BE INTERESTED.

4. PROPOSED WORK PROGRAM (ITEM 9) SEES REMAINDER OF 1974 AS ESSENTIALLY CONTINUATION OF OLD USESOB PROGRAM WITH STAFF OF 45 PROFESSIONALS, OR ABOUT 600 MAN-MONTHS. FOR 1975 ECWA PROPOSES 25 FIRST-PRIORITY PROJECTS COVERING WATER RESOURCES, CEREALS-LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FERTILIZER INDUSTRY, MANPOWER TRAINING, ALTERNATIVE USES OF OIL, OTHER MINERAL RESOURCES, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION TRAINING, UTILIZATION OF REGIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES (OIL SURPLUSES), SURVEY OF EXISTING REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, FOUNDING OF ECWA DOCUMENTATION CENTER, REGIONAL COOPERATION IN TOURISM, FOUR SOCIAL PROJECTS AND NINE POPULATION PROJECTS. SOME PROJECTS ENVISION JOINT EFFORTS WITH FAO, UNIDO, ETC. BUDGET NEEDS PROJECTED AT 936 MAN-MONTHS FOR 1975, 1104 FOR 1976, TO BE APPROPRIATED. UNCLASSIFIED

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5. REGARDING ADDITIONAL ECWA MEMBERS (ITEM 10), APPLICATIONS FROM EGYPT AND PAKISTAN CIRCULATED.

6. NEXT ECWA CONFERENCE PLANNED FOR EARLY 1975.

COMMENT: PARA SIX PROJECT FOR DOCUMENTATION CENTER DESCRIBES INITIALLY MODEST EFFORT DURING 1975-80 FOR

COLLECTING, CLASSIFYING, STORING AND RETRIEVING INFORMATION
AND DOCUMENTATION. AUTOMATION NOT MENTIONED BUT UN DOES
HAVE AUTOMATED SYSTEMS. THIS PROJECT MAY PRESENT COMMERICAL
OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICAN FIRMS. GODLEY

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